GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5839
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
MISSILE TESTED BY USA
ABDUL HAMID;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has conducted tests of the `Kill Vehicle` made under the `star wars` nuclear programme and the proposed missile could have many parts of Asia within its range;

(b) if so, whether this is in violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b) Yes Sir. In October 1999, the US successfully tested an interceptor that destroyed a dummy in-coming ballistic missile using `hit-to-kill` technology. A subsequent test in January 2000 failed and further tests are planned. These tests are part of the US programme to develop defence systems against different kinds of missiles. Russia has stated that the testing and plans for deployment of such systems will be inconsistent with the bilateral 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty that prohibits deployment of nation-wide ballistic missile defence systems or the creation of the basis for such a defence.

(c) India has consistently opposed weaponisation of outer space and maintains that arms control treaties need to be implemented fully and in good faith to maintain stability. Unilateral actions perceived to be inconsistent with existing treaties may reduce the prospects for further nuclear disarmament, weaken non-proliferation constraints and encourage other nuclear weapon states to reconsider their strategic force modernisation plans.